

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated June 30, 2004. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive to the Official Action.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract because the abstract exceeded 150 words. Claims 1-19 were objected to as being misnumbered. Dependent claim 14 was objected to as being in improper dependent form and for failing to limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-14 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,355,779 to O'Brien in view of U.S. Patent 6,064,042 to Glucksman and U.S. Patent 2,081,078 to Watson. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien in view of Glucksman and Watson and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,024,014 to Kasai.

With regard to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract has been shortened to 132 words to comply with the cited requirements. With regard to the misnumbering of the original claims, the claims have been re-numbered to reflect the correct numbering.

With regard to the rejection of claim 14 and the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claims 1-19 have been canceled and new claims 20-25 have been added.

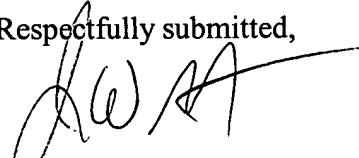
With regard to new independent claim 20, the prior art, including O'Brien, Glucksman, Watson, and Kasai, does not disclose a planar cooking surface disposed adjacent a ribbed grilling

surface wherein a detachable food divider extends perpendicular to the individual ribs of the grilling surface, as established in parent application 10/265,619. Additionally, independent claim 20 includes the added limitations that the lower portion of the food divider is formed in a "U" or "V" shape, as shown in Figures 17 and 18, and described on page 11 of the specification.

With regard to new dependent claims 21 and 22, claims 21 and 22 include additional subject matter which, in combination with independent claim 20, is not shown in the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe that additional discussion is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees to deposit account no. 50-0548.

Respectfully submitted,



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